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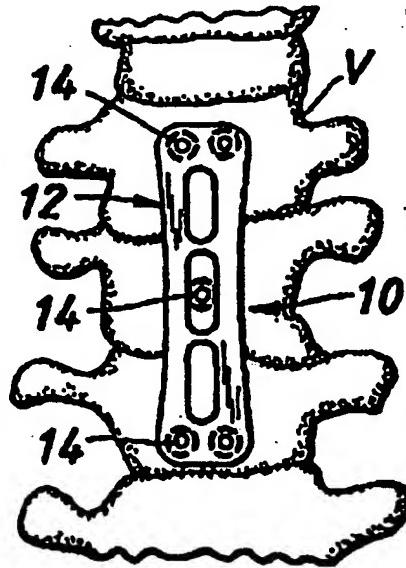
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(54) Title: **OSTEOSYNTHESIS APPARATUS**

(57) Abstract

A bone fixation apparatus (10) having an elongated plate member (12) with at least two pairs of circular openings (24, 26) and at least one elongated slot (28) positioned along the longitudinal axis of the plate member (12). The plate member (12) is formed so as to include a curve in the transverse plane (TP). The openings and slot each form a cavity with walls extending between the upper and lower plate member surfaces (16, 18) with smaller diameter wall portions (32) at the plate member upper and lower surfaces and a larger diameter wall portion (34) therebetween. The openings (24, 26) and slot (28) are shaped to allow for angulation of an implanted bone screw (14). A plurality of bone screws (14) have a threaded first end portion (36) adapted for implantation into a patient's bone mass and a spherically shaped enlarged second end portion (40). A locking member (48) connects to the second end portion (40) to grip the cavity wall of the plate member (12) so as to lock each bone screw (14) into a selected position within the openings (24, 26) and slot (28) of the plate member (12).



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